

Citizen Corps Update January-June 2006

Background

This update is to provide current information on the activities and operation of Citizen Corps in Washington State.

As part of the legal requirements associated with grant administration, the office performs the following basic functions:

- Provides program technical assistance to local Councils to help them achieve all five Citizen Corps Partner Programs (Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), and Fire Corps) in an integrated fashion, engaging citizenry in support of local public safety and emergency responders.
- Performs sub-recipient monitoring.
- Works with the state Emergency Management Division (EMD) and local Citizen Corps Councils to coordinate citizen awareness and participation activities, ensure Citizen Corps volunteers achieve National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, and ensure volunteers are integrated into plans, training, and exercises.
- Supports the efforts of National Citizen Corps working groups and ad hoc projects and task forces (grant guidance review, Target Capabilities and Universal Task Lists, NIMS NGO/Private Sector Summit).
- Gathers, documents, and shares best practices in Citizen Corps and Citizen Preparedness & Participation. Gives reports to local, state, tribal, and federal stakeholders (including reporting to the National Citizen Corps Program Office).
- Manages the administrative section of the Citizen Corps web site, including review and approval of new Councils.

Examples of activities that the State Citizen Corps Program has supported in 2006 include the following:

- Partnering with Minor League Baseball to provide Ready Campaign materials to every club in Washington.
- Partnering with the US Coast Guard to incorporate Citizen Corps activities into the Coast Guard's Citizen Action Network.
- Partnering with the American Legion to work together in our disaster preparedness outreach and education efforts throughout Washington.
- Expanding volunteer recognition opportunities with Governor Gregoire to include the recognition of CERT/CC volunteers at the Governor's Mansion.
- Assisted with the deployment of over 100 AmeriCorps members to aid in the hurricane recovery efforts in the impacted Gulf States.
- Helped to facilitate the passage of HB1850, creating a retired volunteer medical worker license which became law on June 7, 2006.
- Worked with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to allow the use of Homeland Security funding to pay for the cash match for AmeriCorps*VISTA so members can be a local resource to accomplish emergency management and homeland security objectives. Washington currently has over 50 AmeriCorps volunteers, many assigned to counties and regions to assist in performing disaster preparedness and emergency management activities.
- Developed and coordinated a service project during the National Conference on Volunteering and Service (Seattle, June 18-20, 2006) in which participants assembled over 1,000 72-hour emergency kits. Also provided preparedness materials and information on how the more than 3,000 attendees could

develop their own 72-hour emergency kit service project and become better informed on potential disasters in their home communities.

- Planned and coordinated a workshop during the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in which national leaders in citizen preparedness (including Liz DiGregorio, National CC Director and Eric Holdeman, King Co. OEM) discussed the role of volunteers in emergency response.

Current Activities:

- Planning CERT Train-the-Trainer sessions to be held in King County and Spokane in the fall of 2006.
- Planning and coordinating a regional Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps conference to be held in Seattle, August 8-11th.
- Promoting Citizen Corps as a new way for those who have not been involved in community service to become civically engaged and active in their community. Also harnessing the experience, knowledge, and skills that the retiring “baby-boomer” generation is now bringing to the table.
- Incorporating more Citizen Corps volunteers into the state’s Emergency Worker program.

Funding Appropriations

Due to the changes in appropriation language and shifts in funding levels it has been difficult to offer regions a predictable amount of funding to address local Citizen Corps priorities. The Citizen Corps appropriations in the last five grant cycles are as follows: \$418,543 in FFY02; \$374,951 in FFY03; 694,000 in FFY04; \$269,275 in FFY05; and \$384,998 in FFY06. In each year, except FFY05, funds were allocated to the regions. In years when funding was significantly lower, it was felt that the cost to the regions to account for this much lower level of funding was more of an administrative burden. In that instance, more emphasis was placed on contributing to statewide efforts.

Current (FFY 06) Allocation plan

The FFY 06 appropriation for Citizen Corps was \$19.8 million dollars. The amount allocated to Washington State is \$384,998. Given this increase, our recommendation is that the funding again be allocated to regions based on the formula of \$25,000 base + population. The following table shows the anticipated allocation:

2006 CCP Pass-Thru

Region	Award
1	\$31,690
2	\$27,178
3	\$27,819
4	\$28,228
5	\$29,876
6	\$36,720
7	\$26,680
8	\$28,379
9	\$28,852

Approximately \$119,577 would be reserved to support required statewide grant compliance requirements as well as implement the following statewide projects to address needs identified by various regions:

- Facilitate statewide CERT Train-the-Trainer sessions
- Coordinate statewide Citizen Corps conferences, incorporating all Citizen Corps Programs
- Support NIMS implementation
- Promote increased corporate involvement in Citizen Corps programs

Future Congressional Appropriations

For FFY07, the House mark up has eliminated funding for the Citizen Corps Program. The President’s budget recommended \$35 million dollars. The Senate has yet to act, however last year it was the House that put funding into Citizen Corps after the senate eliminated funding.

We realize this constant flux in funding makes it difficult for you to plan and for us to help support statewide efforts. We do hope that this type of communication plus participation at various meetings can help enhance communication regarding Citizen Corps efforts.